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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,960	06/04/2001	Kazuhiro Kudoh	00-169925	2545
21254	7590	02/09/2005	EXAMINER	
MCGINN & GIBB, PLLC 8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD SUITE 200 VIENNA, VA 22182-3817			GAUTHIER, GERALD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2645	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/871,960

Applicant(s)

KUDOH, KAZUHIRO

Examiner

Gerald Gauthier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/12/2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claim(s) 13-18 and 21-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Henderson (US 6,611,681 B2).

Regarding **claim(s) 13**, Henderson discloses a communications terminal (column 4, lines 17-21) comprising:

a memory storing a character string for a calling party, the character string to be retrieved from the memory upon a receipt of a call from the calling party for outputting voice information (FIG. 1 and column 5, lines 52-59) [The caller identifying data to be announced to the called party are stored in the RAM 14] and upon receipt of an instruction from a user during an incoming call (FIG. 1 and column 7, lines 4-9) [The transmission of audible caller identifying data to the telephone handset as a result of the called party pressing the talk button].

Regarding **claim(s) 14**, Henderson discloses a speaker (30 on FIG. 1); and a controller that controls the speaker to output the voice information in response to a call from the calling party based upon the character string that was stored before the call from the party and upon receipt of the instruction (column 7, lines 4-9).

Regarding **claim(s) 15**, Henderson discloses a converter that converts the character string into an analog voice waveform (column 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding **claim(s) 16**, Henderson discloses a switch to receive the instruction and to control a retrieval of the character string and a conversion of the character string into an analog waveform (column 7, lines 4-9).

Regarding **claim(s) 17**, Henderson discloses a speaker in communication with the memory (column 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding **claim(s) 18**, Henderson discloses the controller determines whether the call is from the party based upon caller identification data (column 6, lines 31-39).

Regarding **claim(s) 21**, Henderson discloses the character string comprises a digitized voice signal (column 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding **claim(s) 22**, Henderson discloses the memory comprises a telephone directory that stores the character string (column 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding **claim(s) 23**, Henderson discloses the communications terminal comprises a mobile communications terminal (column 5, lines 60-63).

Claim(s) Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claim(s)s 1-12, 24-28 and 30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan (US 5,903,628) in view of Muramatsu (US 2001/0051536 A1) and in further view of Henderson.

Regarding **claim(s) 1, 6, 9 and 10**, Brennan discloses a mobile communications terminal device (column 4, lines 17-21), comprising:

storage means (Data Memory 42 on FIG. 1) for registering beforehand a name of an originator, one of the telephone number and a mail address of the originator, a kind of an incoming identification tone at a time of a call incoming from the originator and a character string corresponding to a voice information designating the originator (column 4, lines 31-47) [The user enters the telephone number names and path-type indication and also records the voice utterances are recorded into the data memory 42 for voice announcements];

control means (Main Controller 134 on FIG. 1) for controlling the voice output means to output the voice information corresponding to the character string registered beforehand in the storage means in response to an instruction received from a user while the voice output means is ringing (column 4, lines 48-65) [The main controller 134 in response to an incoming call matching the number and names and reads the voice announcement recorded previously to announce the caller over the speaker 26 to the called party].

Brennan discloses the user entering a plurality of telephone numbers and associated names and addressees into the memory prior receiving an incoming call (column 2, lines 45-59).

Brennan further discloses a ring detector to detect ringing signal from the incoming call (column 3, lines 3-31), and also discloses the system can be an analog telephone, a digital telephone or a wireless telephone (column 4, lines 17-21).

Note, recording an incoming identification tone to identify a caller is well known.

For example, Muramatsu teaches a voice output means for ringing with the kind of the incoming identification tone corresponding to the originator at the time of the call incoming (¶ 0033, ¶ 0061) [The memory RAM 6 stores the name data of the caller and sound patterns associated with the caller names. The controller 12 outputs the sound pattern to the notification section 11 at the time the name is found and the sound pattern corresponding to that name].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brennan using the sounds patterns memory as taught by Muramatsu.

This modification of the invention would offer the capability of recording a sound pattern such as the system would allow the user to recognize whom is calling before the phone goes off-hook.

Brennan discloses reading the voice announcement recorded previously to announce the caller over the speaker to the called party but fails to disclose in response to an instruction received from a user while the voice output means is ringing.

However, Henderson teaches output the voice information corresponding to the character string registered beforehand in the storage means in response to an instruction received from a user while the voice output means is ringing (FIG. 1 and column 7, lines 4-9) [The transmission of audible caller identifying data to the telephone handset as a result of the called party pressing the talk button].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brennan using the talk button as taught by Henderson.

This modification of the invention would offer the capability of announcing the caller so that the user would recognize whom is calling before the phone goes off-hook.

Regarding **claim(s) 2 and 7**, Brennan discloses the control means controls the voice output means to output the voice information after stopping the ringing in response to the instruction (column 3, lines 3-31).

Regarding **claim(s) 3 and 8**, Brennan discloses the control means controls the voice output means to output the voice information after reducing an output volume of ringing in response to the instruction (column 4, lines 48-65).

Regarding **claim(s) 4**, Muramatsu teaches the voice output means outputs the voice information corresponding to one of the telephone number and the mail address of the originator as the incoming identification tone at the time of the call incoming (¶ 0033).

Regarding **claim(s) 5**, Brennan discloses the voice output means outputs the primary information regarding one of the discriminating ringing and the originator as the voice information instead of the incoming identification tone (column 3, lines 3-31).

Regarding **claim(s) 11**, Brennan discloses the instruction comprises an input from a switch mounted on an exterior of the mobile communication terminal device (column 3, lines 3-31).

Regarding **claim(s) 12**, Brennan discloses the outputting of the voice information is in response to an external instruction during the ringing (column 4, lines 48-65).

Regarding **claim(s) 24**, Brennan, Muramatsu and Henderson disclose all the limitations of **claim(s) 24** as stated in **claim(s) 1**'s rejection.

Regarding **claim(s) 25**, Brennan discloses receiving caller identification data and wherein the determining comprises determining whether the character string corresponds to the caller based upon the caller identification data (column 3, lines 3-31).

Regarding **claim(s) 26**, Brennan discloses storing the character string in a telephone directory before the determining (column 2, lines 45-59).

Regarding **claim(s) 27**, Muramatsu teaches storing a tone in the telephone directory (§ 0033);

determining whether the tone corresponds to the caller (§ 0033); and

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outputting the tone if the tone corresponds to the caller before outputting the voice signal (§ 0061).

Regarding **claim(s) 28**, Muramatsu teaches initially running an identification tone in response to a call from the caller (§ 0061).

Regarding **claim(s) 30**, Muramatsu teaches the instruction comprises a prompt by a user for the output of the voice signal while an identification tone, corresponding to the caller, is ringing (§ 0061).

6. **Claim(s) 19 and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson in view of Muramatsu (US 2001/0051536 A1).

Regarding **claim(s) 19**, Henderson as applied to claim(s) 13 differs from claim(s) 19 in that it fails to disclose the memory further stores a tone for the party.

However, Muramatsu teaches the memory further stores a tone for the party (§ 0033).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Henderson using the memory as taught by Muramatsu.

This modification of the invention would offer the capability of announcing the caller with a tone so that the user would recognize whom is calling before the phone goes off-hook.

Regarding **claim(s) 20**, Muramatsu teaches the controller controls the speaker to output the tone in response to a call from the party (§ 0061).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 11/12/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant on page 16, last paragraph stated that Brennan is not combinable with Muramatsu.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Brennan discloses features of telephone allowing voice announcement of the caller. Muramatsu teaches a telephone allowing a melody tone to be played to announce the caller. It would have been obvious to combine the two inventions to disclose the claim limitations.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (703) 305-0981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GERALD GAUTHIER
PATENT EXAMINER

OVIDIO ESCALANTE
PATENT EXAMINER

g.g.

Ovidio Escalante

February 3, 2005